

Washington, DC -- Continuing his commitment to help local law enforcement agencies, U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) voted today to authorize over \$1 billion for the COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) program over the next five years.

“As a former District Attorney, I know from experience how important it is for our police officers to have the funding and resources they need,” **Arcuri said**. “I worked side by side with police officers throughout Upstate New York and saw time and again the results of increased police presence in reducing crime in a neighborhood or community. Local law enforcement officers knew they could count on me as DA, and now they know they can count on me in Congress to fight for initiatives like the C.O.P.S. program and make sure police officers have the assistance they need to keep us safe.”

Arcuri voted for, and the House of Representatives passed, the COPS Improvements Act (H.R. 1139), which authorizes \$1.25 billion per year for hiring grants, to fund up to 50,000 new police officers on the beat nationwide over the next 5 years. Hiring grants can be used to hire officers to engage in community policing, serve as School Resource Officers, or engage in counter-terrorism duties. H.R. 1139 also reinstitutes the Troops-to-COPS Program, which awards grants to hire former members of the Armed Forces as career law enforcement officers.

In addition to hiring grants, the bill authorizes \$350 million a year for the next five years for technology grants. These grants will allow police agencies to purchase things such as lap top computers for patrol cars, crime mapping software, and interoperable communications equipment. H.R. 1139 also includes authorization for \$200 million per year to help hire community prosecutors

In 1994, Congress established the COPS hiring grants program. Between 1995 and 2005, COPS hiring grants provided \$9 billion to help local law enforcement agencies hire more than 117,000 additional police officers, spread across every state.

Last month, Arcuri notified local and county law enforcement agencies across Upstate New York about additional law enforcement funding available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Bill).

The Recovery bill, which Arcuri voted for, included \$2 billion for the Edward J. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. Of that amount, \$764,087 is available for local and county law enforcement agencies in Arcuri's district to apply. Funds can be used for a variety of efforts such as hiring law enforcement officers, supporting drug and gang task forces, funding crime prevention and domestic violence programs, and supporting courts, corrections, treatment, and justice information sharing initiatives.

Local and county law enforcement agencies that are eligible for JAG funds must submit online applications to the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs before May 18, 2009. In his letter, Arcuri urged eligible local agencies to begin the application process promptly and to visit <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recoveryact.html> for more information.

The Recovery bill also included \$1 billion nationally for the COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) that will be awarded on a competitive basis to local law enforcement agencies. Grants under CHRP provide 100 percent funding for approved entry-level salaries and benefits for 3 years for newly-hired, full-time sworn officer positions or for rehired officers who have been laid off, or are scheduled to be laid off on a future date, as a result of local budget cuts. A number of local agencies submitted applications for CHRP funding prior to the April 17, 2009 application deadline.

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